GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3015
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2005
IMPLEMENTATION OF ICDS PROGRAMME
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conveyed to state Governments and Union Territories to speed up implementation of the Integrated Child Development Scheme in view of the UNICEF reminder regarding malnutrition;

(b) whether the Government has asked State Governments and Union Territories to provide relief to the people of the socio-economically disadvantaged blocks; and

(c) if so, the action/steps being taken by the Government for proper implementation of the ICDS Programme by State Governments and UTs in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH)

(a) UNICEF, at present, operates under the Government of India-UNICEF Master Plan of Operations 2003-07 and extends support to the Child Development & Nutrition Programme in India. No reminder regarding malnutrition has been received by the Government nor is it UNICEF's mandate to issue such reminder. However, the Government of India have been requesting the State Governments, from time to time, to speed up and effectively implement the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme.

(b) The ICDS Scheme has been expanded recently to cover all community development blocks and major urban slums. Instructions have been issued to all States that villages pre-dominantly inhabited by population belonging to SC/ST and minority community should be given priority in selection of location of Anganwadi Centre (AWC).

(c) The steps taken, in the recent past, for proper and effective implementation of the scheme include:

Expansion of the Scheme from existing 5652 Projects and

754 lakh Anganwadi Centres to 6119 Projects and 9.42 lakh Anganwadi Centres.

Doubling of financial norms for supplementary nutrition with the States.

Sharing of 50% cost of supplementary nutrition with the States.

Increase in the rent of Anganwadi Centres.

Constant emphasis on States to:

Operationalise all sanctioned projects and Anganwadi Centres (AWCs)

Fill up all vacant posts of ICDS functionaries.

Ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per schematic norms.

Make available medicine and pre-school education kits in all AWCs.

Ensure effective convergence of health nutrition, education and safe drinking water services under various programmes.